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To

SIR,—I beg to invite your attention to the accompanying statement, and to mention that a reply at your early convenience, is respectfully requested to the annexed Queries. The Committee solicit your concurrence in the effort they are now making to carry out the important duties entrusted to them by the Synod. Any other information beside that requested by the Queries submitted and bearing upon this matter, will be thankfully received.

Anticipating your cordial co-operation.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

John Greenshields

Secretary.

MONTREAL, 16*th February*, 1856.

Committee on Church property.

Central Committee in Montreal.—Alexander Morris, Esq., *Convener;* Hew Ramsay, Esq., William Edmonstone, Esq., and John Greenshields, Esq.

Corresponding Members.—John Thomson, Esq., Quebec; James F. Pringle, Esq., Cornwall; George Malloch, Esq., Brockville; John G. Malloch, Esq., Perth; Alexander Campbell, Esq., Kingston; John Bell, Esq., Belleville; John Cameron, Esq., Toronto; John Young, Esq., and James D. Pringle, Esq., Hamilton,—with power to add to their number.

Memoranda relative to Church Property in Upper Canada.

The Acts regulating the holding of real property by Religious Societies of Presbyterians and other denominations, are the following, viz.: 9 Geo. IV., cap. 2, amended by 3 Vic., cap. 73, and the 12 Vic., cap. 91, of which the first Act authorizes the acquiring lands for the site of a church, meeting house, or chapel, or burying ground, while the second doing away with this limitation as to the purposes for which the land is to be held, empowers the several Religious Societies named in the previous Act, to hold lands, "for the support of public worship and the propagation of Christian konwledge." The 8 Vic., cap. 15, is intended to extend to other denominations of Christians, the benefits of these Acts. The 18 Vic., cap. 119 regulates the sale and lease of such lands, and provides a remedy for any misconduct of Trustees.

In order to the acquisition of real property, under these Acts, the following directions may be useful:

1st. Let a Meeting of the Congregation be assembled.

2nd. At such Meeting, let Trustees be appointed to hold the lands to be acquired, and at such Meeting let the name by which the Trustees are to be known be adopted.

DEED

The holding of the Meeting, the appointment of the Trustees, and the name by which the Trustees are to be known, should be specified in the Deed.

The purpose for which the lands are to be held, and the nature of the Trust should also be specified in the Deed.

The Deed must specify the mode in which the Trust is to be perpetuated.

Registration of the Deed must be made within 12 months from its date, but in view of the provisions of the Registry Acts, Registration forthwith is recommended as a precautionary measure.

MEMORIAL.

It is suggested, that the Memorial should be a transcript of the Deed, and should be under the hands and seals of the grantors, because in this way the Trust is open to all, and because if the Deed is lost the Memorial will be evidence of its contents.

As a general rule, the proceedings to acquire lands and their sale, should be conducted under legal advice.

QUERIES SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE SYNOD ON CHURCH PROPERTY.

1st.—What is the designation of your Church ? What extent of land is attached to your Church or belongs to the congregation ? For what purposes is it used—specifying the total number of acres and also the number applied to each purpose ? What was the cost of said land ? What is its present value ? Is there any and what debt upon it ? How was said land acquired—by gift or purchase ?

2nd.—What are the names of the present Trustees who hold said property, and when and how were they appointed ?

3rd.—Can you supply a copy of the title deed or deeds of the Church, manse and glebe property, or of either of them ? If so, please transmit them at your early convenience to the Secretary.

4th.—Of what material is your Church erected, and how many is it seated for ? When was it built ? What did it cost ? Is there any and how much debt upon it ? Is it in good condition ?

5th.—Is there a manse for the accommodation of the Minister ? When and of what materials was it built ? What did it cost ? Is there any debt ?

6th.—Is there any and what Church property in your vicinity or within your Presbytery belonging to the Church not in possession of any congregation of the Church ? If so furnish such information as may be in your power with regard to it, and state in whose name it stands.

The Committee trust that answers will be generally returned to the foregoing queries, and with as little delay as possible. They are desirous of carrying out the commission entrusted to them by the Church, and are persuaded that if cordially supported they may be enabled to contribute to the advantage and benefit of the Church. They conceive that statistical information such as that sought for, is very desirable, and they are fully persuaded, that could a full statement once be procured, the future record of the efforts for Church and manse extension from time to time made, would exhibit satisfactory evidence of steady and decided progress. Even now, they are persuaded that in various localities, liberal and judicious efforts in this direction are being made, the moral effect of which upon the whole Church is lost, owing to there being no record of such exertions. They trust, that they will be furnished with copies of the title deeds as generally as practicable, as information with regard to these, is especially important. The Committee will have pleasure in communicating information with regard to the mode of procedure in acquiring and legally holding and of selling and leasing Church property, to such parties as may apply to the Secretary. With the view of facilitating the safe acquisition of such property, this circular is accompanied by notes referring to the Statutes and particularizing the necessary formalities. They will also furnish copies of a model deed for use in Upper Canada.

Entering upon their responsible duties with a sincere purpose of endeavouring to discharge them in such a manner as to contribute in some measure to the advancement of our Church, the Committee appeal with confidence to the Ministers, Elders, Members, and Adherents of our Church, for their prompt, considerate and cordial support.

For and on behalf of the Committee.

ALEXANDER MORRIS,
Convener.

MONTREAL, 16*th February*, 1856.